No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/11/28 : LOC-HAK-548-9-28-4

MORI/CDF
C03339973

SENSITIVE

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SITUATION: HAK
SUBJECT CATAGORY: OUTGOING II

State Dept. review completed

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

DIA, OSD, NSA review(s) completed.

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DE WTE #1222 0811300
ZNY TTTTT
O 221250Z MAR 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 61
TO JON HOWE FOR DR. KISSINGER
ZEM
T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH30815
TOHAK 61
MARCH 22, 1973
MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS
SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: THE NUMBER OF CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS REMAINED ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED, WITH 15 MAJOR AND 85 MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. THE TWO MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS INVOLVED ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST ARVN INFANTRY ELEMENTS IN NORTHWESTERN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE AND IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE OF MILITARY REGION 4. ENEMY SHELLINGS CONTINUED AGAINST THE TONLE CHAM BASE CAMP IN NORTHERN TAY NINH PROVINCE OF MILITARY REGION 3. A PRELIMINARY FIELD REPORT INDICATES THE CAMP WITHSTOOD A REGIMENTAL-SIZE GROUND ATTACK LATE YESTERDAY.
IN CAMBODIA, ENEMY UNITS HAVE STEPPED UP OPERATIONS AGAINST LINES OF COMMUNICATION EAST OF PHNOM PENH. SIX GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ALONG ROUTE 1 BETWEEN THE CAPITAL AND NEAK LUONG WERE ATTACKED, AS WERE CAMBODIAN UNITS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG RIVER. ROUTE 1 WAS INTERDICTED IN TWO POINTS, BUT THE ASSAULTS ON THE RIVER BANK POSITIONS WERE REPULSED. ROUTE 2 HAS BEEN OPENED AS FAR SOUTH AS TAKEO CITY, BUT TRAFFIC IS RESTRICTED BY BATTLE DAMAGE ALONG AND TO THE ROADWAY. CAMBODIAN UNITS AT TAKEO REMAIN UNDER HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE BUT CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT DESPITE INCREASING AMMUNITION SHORTAGES. ALONG ROUTE 5 NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, FOUR CAMBODIAN COMPANIES ARE SURROUNDED, AND THE HIGHWAY REMAINS CLOSED SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG CITY. A U.S. AIR STRIKE NEAR KOMPONG THOM CITY DESTROYED 28 TRUCKS OF A COMMUNIST CONVOY AND DAMAGED SEVEN OTHERS. U.S. PILOTS FLEW 195 ATTACK (INCLUDING 12 GUNSHIP) SORTIES AND 56 B-52 SORTIES.
CEASE-FIRE DEVELOPMENTS: AIRBORNE RADIO DIRECTION FINDING INDICATES THAT THE HEADQUARTERS, NVA 593RD AAA REGIMENT AND TWO OF ITS BATTALIONS HAVE MOVED INTO AN AREA ABOUT 40 MILES WEST-NORTHWEST OF PLEIKU. THE LOCATION HAS BEEN FIXED ABOUT THREE MILES

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MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

INSIDE THE BORDER. THE REGIMENT WAS LAST LOCATED IN SOUTHERN LAOS THREE WEEKS AGO.

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THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH ICCS DELEGATIONS CONTINUE TO BLOCK AN INVESTIGATION OF THE REPORTED ATTACK ON THE TONLE CHAM RANGER CAMP IN TAY NINH PROVINCE.

DIA REPORTS THAT NO REDUCTION IN ENEMY LOGISTICS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN DETECTED SINCE MARCH 15, WHEN YOU PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON HANOI'S HIGH RESUPPLY RATE. SENSOR AND OTHER SOURCES CONFIRM CONTINUED HEAVY ACTIVITY. CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SHARP, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO INDOCHINA, WAS QUOTED BY AP AS STATING THAT HIS TRIP TENDED TO CONFIRM LARGE-SCALE NVA INFILTRATION. SHARP SAID THAT CANADA WOULD QUIT THE VIETNAM TRUCE FORCE IF LARGE-SCALE FIGHTING BEGAN AGAIN.

AT YESTERDAY'S FPJMC MEETING, THE U.S. PROTESTED NORTH VIETNAMESE VIOLATIONS, CITING "CLEAR AND IRREFUTABLE" EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL PERSONNEL, ARTILLERY, AND ARMOR MOVING THROUGH LAOS AND INTO SOUTH VIETNAM. THE DRV/PRG DENIED AND REJECTED THE U.S. PROTESTS AND ACCUSED THE U.S. OF COVERING UP GVN VIOLATIONS, SHIPPING WAR MATERIALS FROM JAPAN, AND CONDUCTING ILLEGAL RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE NORTH.

YESTERDAY, THE DRV FPJMC DELEGATION INFORMED THE U.S. THAT THE DRV WAS PREPARED TO COMPLETE THE RELEASE OF ALL U.S. POWS ON MARCH 25 AND THAT THE PRG WOULD DO SO ON MARCH 24. THE DRV DELEGATE STATED THAT THE DRV WOULD ARRANGE WITH THE PATHET LAO FOR THE RELEASE OF U.S. POWS IN LAOS BUT PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS. IN RESPONSE, THE DEPUTY U.S. DELEGATE NOTIFIED THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT RESUME TROOP WITHDRAWALS UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL REMAINING AMERICAN POWS FROM INDOCHINA. AS A RESULT, THE PRG NOW SAYS THAT IT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUSPEND HANDING OVER THE LIST OF THE LAST GROUP OF AMERICAN POWS. A SOUTH VIETNAMESE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD REJECT ANY PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE FPJMC BEYOND THE 60-DAY PERIOD.

ITALY AND THE BENELUX COUNTRIES WILL ANNOUNCE TODAY THEIR INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE THE DRV.

PROTEST TO LIBYAN SHOOTING: SECRETARY ROGERS CALLED IN THE LIBYAN CHARGE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO PRESENT PERSONALLY A U.S. NOTE PROTESTING "IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS" YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT IN WHICH LIBYAN MIRAGE FIGHTERS FIRED ON AN UNARMED U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANE OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE LIBYAN ACCEPTED IT WITHOUT COMMENT. FOLLOWING INQUIRIES, STATE ALSO PUBLICLY CONFIRMED THE INCIDENT

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AGAINST "A U.S. MILITARY TRANSPORT" AND SAID WE WERE OFFICIALLY PROTESTING.

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CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN EGYPT: FOR THE PAST WEEK WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING RUMORS OF AN IMPENDING CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN EGYPT. PRESIDENT SADAT HAS NOW REPORTEDLY RECEIVED THE RESIGNATION OF THE UNPOPULAR PRIME MINISTER SIDQI, KNOWN MOST RECENTLY AS THE ARCHITECT OF THE LIMITED RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION LAST OCTOBER. SIDQI WILL APPARENTLY BE REPLACED BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER TO PRESIDENT SADAT, HAFIZ ISMAIL, WHOM YOU MET IN LATE FEBRUARY.

[redacted] GIVEN THE VERY POOR STATE
25X1 OF THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY, ISMAIL'S TALENTS AS AN ADMINISTRATOR COULD BE A REASON BEHIND THE CHANGE. AT THE SAME TIME, ISMAIL IS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH SADAT'S RECENT DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE, AND HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP COULD BE SEEN AS AN EFFORT TO UNDERSCORE EGYPT'S INTEREST IN A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL.

BILLY GRAHAM IN SOUTH AFRICA: OUR CONSULATE IN DURBAN REPORTS THAT ON MARCH 17 BILLY GRAHAM SPOKE BEFORE THE LARGEST MULTI-RACIAL CROWD EVER TO ASSEMBLE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE CROWD OF 45,000 EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS, ACCORDING TO OUR CONSUL. IN HIS ADDRESS, GRAHAM HIT HARD AT RACIALISM, NOTING THAT CHRIST HAD BEEN NEITHER BLACK NOR WHITE BUT PROBABLY BROWN LIKE SO MANY OF DURBAN'S INDIANS. OUR CONSUL COMMENTS THAT THE HUGE AND COMPLETELY INTEGRATED RALLY IN DURBAN'S PRINCIPAL STADIUM, WHICH BLACKS ARE NOT NORMALLY PERMITTED EVEN TO ENTER, MADE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON DURBAN.

WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW PRETORIA'S OFFICIAL REACTION, WE DO KNOW THAT THEIR EMBASSY WAS VERY COOPERATIVE IN FACILITATING DR. GRAHAM'S VISIT, NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR USUAL SUSPICION OF AMERICAN CHURCHMEN GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA.

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAMA: AT LAST NIGHT'S UN SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION IN PANAMA, AMBASSADOR SCALI VETOED THE RESOLUTION ON FUTURE PANAMA CANAL CONTROL. THIRTEEN COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTED

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IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION, WHILE GREAT BRITAIN ABSTAINED. THE

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SECURITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VOTE. AMBASSADOR SCALI SAID HE DEPLORED HAVING TO USE THE VETO, BUT THE U.S. FELT UN INVOLVEMENT IN A BILATERAL MATTER WAS NOT "APPROPRIATE OR HELPFUL," AND HE NOTED THAT THE ISSUE OF THE TREATY NOW WAS UNDER NEGOTIATION BY WASHINGTON AND PANAMA. PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. SAID AFTERWARD THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD RENEW EFFORTS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO GET A SIMILAR CANAL RESOLUTION PASSED.
CUBAN AIRLIFT TO RESUME: THE CUBANS HAVE INFORMED STATE THAT THE CUBAN REFUGEE AIRLIFT FLIGHTS WILL RESUME OPERATION NEXT MONDAY. THE FLIGHTS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, WITH THE FINAL FLIGHT ON APRIL 6. THERE HAVE BEEN NO AIRLIFT FLIGHTS SINCE FEBRUARY 9.
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